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Connecticut State Medical Society Testimony in Support of
Senate Bill 757 An Act Concerning the Filling of Prescriptions for Antiepileptic
Drugs
Submitted to the Public Health Committee
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Senator Harris, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee, my name is Anthony Alessi and I am a neurologist from Norwich Connecticut. On behalf of myself, my patients and the more than 7,000 members of the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS) thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony to you today in support of Senate Bill 757 An Act Concerning the Filling of Prescriptions for Antiepileptic Drugs.

For most patients the substitution of a generic for a name brand and even the substitution of the same medication between two different generic manufacturers are not noticeable. However, the Food and Drug Administration allows variations from one generic medication to the next. Although mainly in the inert ingredients, for people with epilepsy, these variations can have potentially devastating effects. What for most would be an innocuous change from one generic to another is dangerous for patients with epilepsy results in seizures, even on those who have been seizure free for years.

The legislation before you today does not prohibit the switching from one generic to another. It merely requires that the physician provide consent to the change prior such a substitution being made. The requirement is reasonable, in the best interest of the patient and provides for the dispensing of a 72 hour emergency supply in the rare cases where physician consent is not immediately available.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony to you today. Please support SB 757.